

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 000808

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI,KN, KS

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN-KOREAN RELATIONS

REFS: A. STATE 182747

-B. LAGOS 5323

1. KOREAN EMBASSY MINISTER KU CALLED ON AF/W DECEMBER 3L TO INQUIRE ABOUT CURRENT FMG ATTITUDE TOWARD SOUTH KOREA. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO SEEK IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH SRI LANKA, PAKISTAN, EGYPT AND NIGERIA. HIS GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO BE PATIENT AND REALIZES THIS OBJECTIVE MAY TAKE SEVERAL YEARS TO ACCOMPLISH. NIGERIA IS IMPORTANT TO SOUTH KOREA BECAUSE OF EXTENSIVE TRADE.

2. KU ASKED IF THE NEW NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAD REAFFIRMED POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT REGARDING DIVIDED COUNTRIES. DEPOFF SAID HE UNAWARE OF ANY EXPLICIT REAFFIRMATION BUT
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THAT THIS APPEARS TO REMAIN NIGERIAN POLICY. WHEN KU

INQUIRED ABOUT CURRENT STATUS OF US-NIGERIAN RELATIONS, HE WAS TOLD THESE ARE GOOD ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT DISTURBED BY DIFFERENCES ON ANGOLA. WITH RESPECT TO LATTER, HE WAS TOLD THAT NIGERIAN SUPPORT FOR MPLA IS A FUNCTION OF HOSTILITY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT RATHER THAN

ANY ALIGNMENT WITH SOVIETS, WHOSE ROLE NIGERIANS ALSO BELIEVED TO DISAPPROVE. KU SAID HE BELIEVES NORTH KOREANS MAY PLAN TO SWAY NIGERIANS TO THEIR SIDE. HIS GOVERNMENT ANXIOUS TO FRUSTRATE ANY SUCH INITIATIVE AS WELL AS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH FMG, IF POSSIBLE. IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST FOR ADVICE AS TO MEANS SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT PURSUE IN ATTEMPTING TO BETTER RELATIONS WITH FMG, DEPOFF PROMISED TO SEEK ADVICE OF EMBASSY LAGOS AND REPORT BACK TO KU.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT FMG ATTITUDE TOWARD DIVIDED COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY KOREA. DOES EMBASSY BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE OPPORTUNE TIME FOR KOREANS TO TAKE AN INITIATIVE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS? CAN EMBASSY SUGGEST ANY INITIATIVE WHICH MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE?

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